

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE**                      **Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group**

**DATE OF COMMITTEE**                      **7<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**REPORT TITLE**                                      Proposed review-Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Misuse.

**SUMMARY**    The final report of the Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Misuse in Rugby Panel was approved by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2005. One of the key recommendations of the report asked that a report be produced to this Group seeking guidance on rolling the review out to other parts of the County.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**WOULD THE RECOMMENDED DECISION BE CONTRARY TO THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK?**

**NO**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members               Councillors Haynes and Roodhouse-Comments included within appendix.
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal

- |                          |                                     |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Finance                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |
| Other Chief Officers     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | David Carter                              |
| District Councils        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |
| Health Authority         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |
| Police                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Monica Fogarty, Andrew Lawrence, Kit Leck |

**FINAL DECISION**                      **No**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Council                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Cabinet                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an O & S Committee                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an Area Committee                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Further Consultation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Overview & Scrutiny Coordinating Group  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**Proposed review-Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Misuse  
Report of the Director of Performance and Development**

**Recommendation**

That the proposed review as outlined in Appendix 1 be approved subject to any comments made by the Group.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In January 2005, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to conduct a three month investigation into Drugs Substance and Alcohol Misuse in Rugby. The final report of the Panel was considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2005. The report made a number of findings and recommendations one of which related to an evaluation of the exercise with the possibility of extending the review to other parts of the County.
- 1.2 The final report made a number of observations in assessing whether the review was successful or not. More importantly for the purposes of this report; a series of points were made which would ensure that any future reviews would be more successful than the review that had been conducted in Rugby. Chief improvements that were suggested were:
- That the terms of reference (subject to minor amendments below) be retained in order to ensure comparability. Although reference was made to the potentially wide scope, during the course of investigations it became evident that issues relating to alcohol and drugs, and substance misuse were often interrelated.
  - Consideration should be given to possibly extending the scope of the Panel to include cross cutting issues such as crime and safety. This would enable the Panel to fully include the Police and Probation into areas that were beyond the remit of the Panel.
  - That the terms of reference, expertise and membership of the Panel be tightened up to allow for the review to achieve its objectives within realistic timescales.
  - That greater consultation with community groups, organisations and user groups be conducted to ascertain the effectiveness and responsiveness of the service.
- 1.3 This report has been submitted to the Group for two reasons. Firstly, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in approving the report agreed that a holistic cross cutting approach was required to the review and, as such, direction was required by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group.

- 1.4 Secondly, since July, the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also focussed on the issue of Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Misuse. Key issues that emerged from that Committee were:
- The perception of the fear of crime in the community and the need for greater police presence and action on the streets;
  - The importance of getting drugs off the streets rather than focus on treatment;
  - Alcohol related crime and disorder
  - The link between underage drinking and crime and the impact of the extension of licensing hours;
  - Working with and the obligations of the Drinks Industry;
  - The need for Member representation on WCSP & DAT and on the CDRPs.
- 1.5 What this report seeks to do, based upon consultation with the Chairs of the relevant Committees, is to pull together the various strands and themes that have emerged from both Scrutiny Committees and propose a way forward that is cross-cutting, holistic, avoids duplication and leads to outcomes that will lead to positive improvements in tackling Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Misuse in the County.

## **2. Proposed Review**

- 2.1 It is proposed that a two stage cross cutting review be held into Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Misuse in the County. Details of the review are attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

## **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 This report submits a proposed review which seeks to address the issues and concerns of both the Health and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The way forward that is being suggested seeks to ensure that a holistic approach is adopted for the review which seeks to address the underlying concerns of both committees in way that will lead to an identification of the problems and seek improvements where necessary.
- 3.2 Should the Group be minded to approve the report then work will be undertaken with the Chairs of the respective committees to ensure that suitable arrangements are made in advance of the commencement of the review in June 2006.

## DRUGS, SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL MISUSE REVIEW

### Stage 1

#### **Membership**

A Panel of four to six members drawn from both the Health and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Objectives**

The purpose of Stage 1 would be to:

- Obtain a knowledge of the context and complexity of the issue
- Consult key stakeholders, organisations (e.g Turning Point) and user groups- including those in treatment.
- Ascertain and identify the key issues for further investigation
- Finalise scope, terms of reference, membership and timescales for Stage 2 of the review.

#### **Timescales**

Matters relating to Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Misuse will be examined in detail by the Healthcare Commission and the National Treatment Agency from October 2005 to March 2006. The examinations will be detailed and resource intensive. It is therefore proposed that the review will commence in June 2006. This will both avoid duplication and prevent excessive burdens being placed on a service that is already under review. A review in June will also ensure that the findings of the Healthcare Commission and the National Treatment Agency are able to inform and shape the first stage of the review.

In terms of duration it is anticipated that the first stage of the review will last for three months.

#### **Methodology**

It is hoped that with the approval of this report, preliminary work can be undertaken in identifying members for Stage 1 of the review together with an outline discussion as to the manner in which information will be collated and analysed during the three-month period. Not finalising the methodology at this stage will also give the flexibility to both officers and members in structuring an investigation in an innovative and inclusive manner that takes into account the views of services users and relevant organisations.

#### **End of Stage1-Commencement of Stage 2**

It will be noted that a key objective of Stage 1 is to establish the parameters of investigation for stage 2. Details of Stage 2 therefore have not been outlined as they will be dependant upon the outcomes of Stage1 of the review. Typical issues for consideration will be Membership, Objectives, methodology and Timescale.